

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, that number does not even approach the number, if we look at the houses that are lost, the businesses that are under water, and it is still rising.

□ 1915

HURRICANE FLOYD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, one aspect of this that is going to confront us in the weeks ahead is the environmental disaster that this represents. When we were in the helicopter flying down to Tarboro where the President spoke and where we met with community leaders and people who have been displaced by this disaster, we went to a shelter where people were talking about how difficult it was. They are, of course, happy to be alive; but it is tough in those shelters. The kids get restless. The situation is uncertain. People have no home to go back to in many cases.

But going down there, looking from the air, the unholy stew of hog waste overflows and municipal systems being overflowed and storage tanks, gasoline storage tanks being uprooted, spilling, it is an awful environmental disaster. The people cannot drink this water. People cannot, of course, have any drainage or any sewage systems.

So it is a disaster that is going to be with us for a long time to come. The cleanup is going to take a long time. It is going to be very expensive. We are going to need our colleagues here to help us with disaster assistance. As this agricultural aid goes through, this very definitely needs to be a part of it.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, this photograph here I think is one of the photographs taken in eastern North Carolina. The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is here with us, and she was with us yesterday as we went down to Tarboro. I went back today and visited Wilson, parts of Wilson, and into Rocky Mount again and Smithfield.

But in Tarboro yesterday, it was heartening to see people's courage, but it was also heart wrenching to see what they had gone through, the whole town of Smithfield, Tarboro with no water, no sewer, no telling when it will be back up because water has not yet gone down.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) will yield to me, I agree and thank my colleagues for coming to the floor, and I just thank my colleagues for what they are doing so often.

I also visited Wilson today and visited Halifax. I have a map of the 301 that at least a home of 5,000 feet could

get in. The railroad was having to be rerouted. The water for schools. I saw at least 50 homes destroyed. I am just coming back from Wayne County where the water has not crested yet.

They are wondering how much they are going to release from the Neuse on Wednesday. They are fearful that the water is going to crest tomorrow. If it released 6,000 cubic feet of water, that goes where? It goes to Wayne County. So we want our colleagues to understand this.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, on the news this morning in Goldsboro, I heard this morning on the news along that point, 14 feet flood stage. The Neuse was supposed to crest today without any release of water right at 30 feet, more than twice flood stage. Water is everywhere. I agree.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, people talk about 100-year flood. In some areas, this is a 500-year flood. There are areas flooded now that in no one's memory have ever been flooded before. It is unbelievable the extent of devastation, far beyond what could have reasonably been predicted.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to just share with my colleagues, the word came from Greenville today that it had to cut all the water off. There are about 65,000 people that pump there; they were going to lose their utilities. Again, they have not crested. They expect to crest tonight.

What it reaffirms is that we are so interdependent on each other. Someone always lives downstream from somewhere else. So those who are living downstream are beginning to see the manifestation of what it means to have the water come.

There are just thousands of people who are in shelters in Halifax. In fact, there are about 6,000 in Pitt County, about 5,000 in Edgecombe County. I visited today in Wilson, as the gentleman did. Some of the people in Wilson are actually taking people from Greene county as well as Pitt. We find neighbors helping neighbors.

We want to convey to our colleagues we need that same sense of compassion and generosity. By the way, this flood goes all the way to New Jersey.

HURRICANE FLOYD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE).

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, there are heart-rending tales. We spoke with many, many people in Tarboro who have gone through things no one should ever have to endure in losing their homes, losing their possessions, and, in some cases, losing the lives of family members.

But it is also at the same time inspiring to see the way people are working together and to see the spirit and the spunk. Also, I think we should pay tribute here, I think we all feel this, to the cooperative effort that governmental agencies are making.

Our governor, Jim Hunt, has been tireless in his work. Our Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety, Richard Moore, has been on the scene. State agencies, local law enforcement, the National Guard, and the Federal Government is holding up its end of the bargain.

I must say the work of the Small Business Administration and FEMA. James Lee Witt was with us there yesterday, and he is working with us at this moment on how we can craft a disaster assistance package.

So we are very grateful for what has already happened, but we are going to have to be in this for the long haul.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, if the gentlewoman from North Carolina will yield just a moment on that point, not only are we getting tremendous help, but I think FEMA has done an outstanding job. I would echo that. James Lee Witt has been outstanding. All of our agencies at every level. But a lot of our individuals have come forth to do so much.

I was in Rocky Mount, a district that the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) and I share. Thirty of the public service people in Rocky Mount were out helping others. They had no home to go home to. They were out helping.

Same thing was true in Tarboro yesterday. Two business people, Bob Barnhill who owns a construction company, and Steve Woodsworth, who has another business, they were there providing food and shelter and helping seniors, moving them out in Tarboro out of the Arbermal building when their homes had water in them. But they were there helping.

People of North Carolina have responded, but we still have a long way to go before we are through this. As the gentlewoman said, people are in shelters, are going to be there for several more days before they can even go to temporary quarters.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, let me just read a couple of statements that I have, because the pictures reflect that.

In the driving wind and rain last Thursday morning, Mr. Ben Mayo attempted to save his family. Concerned by the rapid rise of the river, he ushered his family of four out of bed and loaded them into a small boat. Reaching out to his neighbors, he also loaded eight of them into the same small boat. The boat capsized. Six of the persons from the boat were able to reach higher ground.

But Mr. Ben Mayo, his wife, his daughter, and granddaughter, Teshika Vines, were swept away by the raging waters.

I had a picture of her because the picture came in our local paper, right, on her horse.

Mr. Mayo's body was later found stuck in a drain pipe. But little Teshika, shown here on a pony, has yet to be found.

The water, an element that we all rely upon to preserve life took a life away.

In North Carolina, we are facing the worst natural disaster in the history of our State.

But like all of my colleagues have said, this traumatic and devastating story is replaying itself over and over. But conversely to that, people's generosity, if there is anything redemptive about this taking of life and this disaster, it is the generosity of people coming together, the governments working together to make that.

We want to convey that we in North Carolina want to join with our colleagues in Maryland or New Jersey or New York who also were devastated by this, and that we do need to craft a bill that would be responsive in a comprehensive way so that we can not only take care of the disaster in terms of the housing and the business but also the health needs that are just so traumatic.

We do not even begin to understand what it means to have more than a million chickens in the water, more than 100,000 hogs, horse farms, goat farms, all of these. I was in Wilson and the Department of Health director warning people about the water, but also warning people about the rodents and the snakes, the mosquitos that we will have happen and the disease.

So we are in for a long haul. What we want to commend people for is their generosity, but we also want to encourage their patience, because it will take patience with people working together. We want to push our governments to be as responsive as possible. But we know we cannot restore them as quickly. So temporary housing is needed.

Mr. Speaker, in the driving wind and rain last Thursday morning, Mr. Ben Mayo attempted to save his family. Concerned by the rapid rise of the river, he ushered his family of four out of bed and loaded them into a small boat.

Reaching out to his neighbors, he also loaded eight of them into that same small boat. The boat capsized. Six of the persons from the boat were able to reach higher ground. But, Ben Mayo, his wife, his daughter and granddaughter, Teshika Vines, were swept away by the raging waters.

Mr. Mayo's body was later found, stuck in a drainpipe. Little Teshika, shown here on a pony, has yet to be found.

The water, an element that we all rely upon to preserve life, took her life away. In North Carolina we are facing the worst natural disaster in the history of our state.

The winds and water of Hurricane Floyd hit land some days ago, and have left a swath of death and destruction and despair, unprece-

ented in North Carolina history. Towns have become rivers, and rivers have become towns. Thirty-six are known dead. Many more are unaccounted for, still missing.

A State of Emergency has been declared in 26 counties, and the President has issued a disaster declaration for 60 counties. The Tar, Neuse, Cape Fear and Lumber Rivers are all above the flood stage.

Thousands of homes remain underwater. Evacuation orders were issued in seven counties. More than 300 roads, in 43 counties are closed, and that's down from the original 500 that were closed.

Power remains out in nearly 50,000 households, down from the 1.5 million who were initially without electricity. Water and sewer systems are in disrepair. Shelters are housing thousands of citizens.

One hundred thousand hogs have been lost, 2.4 million chickens and 500,000 turkeys. Disease and contamination is a real and dangerous threat as animal carcasses clutter the roads.

Coffins, dredged up by the flooding, have been seen floating in Goldsboro and Wilson. According to the Charlotte Observer, Floyd is the worst flood in North Carolina, in 500 years.

Rivers have become towns. Towns have become rivers. Yet, among all of this tragedy, there are bright spots.

The President has released another \$528 million to FEMA, to address immediate needs. And, we appreciate the efforts of FEMA to provide "Meals Ready to Eat," ice, blankets, water and emergency generators.

We also appreciate the hundreds of individuals, on the ground, who are helping out. The Red Cross has opened 49 shelters. The Salvation Army has 31 mobile kitchens. Yet, much more help and support will be needed.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I intend to join with Members of Congress from other impacted states to try to send a legislative package for further relief to the President for signing.

As part of that package, we need to update the law so that farmers can be treated on equal footing with other families and businesses. We will also need more resources, and that will also be a part of the legislative package.

The people of North Carolina are resilient, and we will bounce back from this situation. But, we will need the help of all Americans.

The winds will go, the rain will go, the rivers will crest, the clean-up will begin and the restoration will take place. The spirit of North Carolina will return, Mr. Speaker, with your help and the help of our colleagues.

HURRICANE FLOYD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, first allow me to convey my sincerest condolences and sympathies to the people of North Carolina. This has been such a terrible natural disaster, unprecedented in anyone's memory. I can only imagine the suffering that the people of North Carolina have already experi-

enced and what lies ahead for them. Our prayers are with my colleagues and the people they represent, and we will do our part here in this body to assist my colleagues in assisting them.

But, Mr. Speaker, I want to talk a little bit about the effect of Floyd's fury that was felt in my State of New Jersey. We are now in the process of rebuilding our lives in the Garden State, lives that almost without exception were touched by Floyd.

In my district alone, it was not just the people who live near bodies of water. Virtually every single body of water, whether it was a lake or a stream or river overflowed its banks in unprecedented ways. There are countless tens of thousands of homes all through my district where basements were flooded, first levels were flooded, no, not much loss of life, thank God, but tremendous suffering, heartache, loss of worldly possessions, yes, but thank goodness not much loss of life.

But our people will be spending a great many weeks and months rebuilding their lives as they try to come to terms with what happened in the wake of Floyd.

I will tell my colleagues what they say the amount of damage in New Jersey just in northern New Jersey alone, \$500 million worth of damage.

In addition to the flooding of the homes and businesses and towns washed out, phone service was out. In my neck of the woods in northern New Jersey, a million people were without phone service beyond just their own little towns, more than a million people. Thirty-five thousand people had no phone service whatsoever.

There was no wireless cell phone service which we rely on a great deal in northern New Jersey, no fax machines, no ATM machines.

Now my colleagues can say, well, why did this happen. We had families who were unable to check in on their loved ones, whether children checking in on their parents or vice versa if they lived out of town. We had patients unable to find their doctors, doctors unable to reach their patients. We had businesses unable to communicate with their customers, the customers with their businesses, suppliers with businesses.

How could this have happened? Well, I have asked that we undertake a Federal inquiry into how a vital industry, a vital utility such as the phone company, could have permitted or how they handled in fact Floyd's aftermath with so many million people and more without phone service for 3, 4, 5 days.

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Tens of millions of dollars were lost in terms of business alone, notwithstanding all of the heartache and emotional isolation felt by so many in my communities.

Well, the switching facility is apparently located near a body of water that